

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'E'

EAST HERTS DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF BISHOP'S STORTFORD TOWN COUNCIL

CURRENT AND FORECAST ELECTORATES

(Forecasts updated 30.04.18)

In undertaking a Community Governance Review, the principal council must take into account the number of registered electors in the area under review, and any change in the number or distribution of electors which is likely to occur in the period of five years from when the review starts. For the review of Bishop's Stortford Town Council it is therefore necessary to forecast the electorate in the parishes and wards under review as at February 2023. This will help to ensure that any recommendations for electoral arrangements arising from the review are robust in the short- to medium-term.

For the purposes of the Community Governance Review, East Herts District Council has calculated the following current and estimated forecast electorates and elector-to-councillor ratios for the areas under review, based on registration trends and planned/consented development, for each of three possible outcomes of the review:-

(a) Bishop's Stortford Town Council:- No change to boundaries

Ward	No. of Cllrs	Current electorate Feb 2018	Ratio	Forecast electorate Feb 2023	Ratio
All Saints	4	6,175	1,544	6,257	1,564
Central	4	7,481	1,870	8,508	2,127
Meads	3	4,715	1,572	11,767*	1,961*
Silverleys	3	4,196	1,399		
South	4	6,212	1,553	6,316	1,579
Total	18	28,779	1,599	32,848	1,825

(b) Bishop's Stortford Town Council:- With internal boundary changes and additional area proposed by the Town Council

Ward	No. of Cllrs	Current electorate Feb 2018	Ratio	Forecast electorate Feb 2023	Ratio
All Saints	4	6,071	1,518	6,152	1,538
Central	4	7,250	1,812	8,277	2,069
Meads	3	4,634	1,545	11,765*	1,961*
Silverleys	3	4,275	1,425		
South	4	7,015	1,754	7,678	1,919
Total	18	29,245	1,625	33,872	1,882

(c) Bishop's Stortford Town Council:- With internal boundary changes proposed by the Town Council and additional area recommended by the Executive

Ward	No. of Cllrs	Current electorate Feb 2018	Ratio	Forecast electorate Feb 2023	Ratio
All Saints	4	6,071	1,518	6,152	1,538
Central	4	7,250	1,812	8,277	2,069
Meads	3	4,634	1,545	11,765*	1,961*
Silverleys	3	4,275	1,425		
South	4	6,844	1,711	7,497	1,874
Total	18	29,074	1,615	33,691	1,872

(* The forecast electorate figures for Meads and Silverleys wards have been aggregated because at the time of finalising the forecasts accurate information was not available on the distribution between the two wards of new dwellings that will be occupied before February 2023 within the proposed Bishop's Stortford North development.)

(d) Thorley Parish Council:- No change to boundaries

Ward	No. of Cllrs	Current electorate Feb 2018	Ratio	Forecast electorate Feb 2023	Ratio
Thorley Rural	3	47	16	50	17
Thorley Urban	4	466	116	997	249
Total	7	513	73	1,047	150

(e) Thorley Parish Council:- If boundary changes proposed by Bishop's Stortford Town Council are agreed

Ward	No. of Cllrs	Current electorate Feb 2018	Ratio	Forecast electorate Feb 2023	Ratio
Thorley Rural	3*	47	16	50	17

(f) Thorley Parish Council:- If boundary changes proposed by the Executive are agreed

Ward	No. of Cllrs	Current electorate Feb 2018	Ratio	Forecast electorate Feb 2023	Ratio
Revised Thorley Parish	Proposed 5*	218	43	231	46

(* NB the legal minimum number of councillors for a parish council is 5)

Note: Whilst every care has been taken to ensure that the above figures are as accurate as possible, any forecast electorate figure can only be an estimate based on the best information available. In particular, planned or consented development may not take place as scheduled, or at all.

Technical notes regarding methodology:-

- In preparing the electorate forecasts the Council has been guided by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England document "Electorate Forecasts – A Guide for Practitioners" (October 2011)
- The electoral register on the day the review was started (13 Feb 2018) has been used to provide an accurate figure for the existing electorate.
- The % change in the electorate since 2013 has been identified as a guide to any registration trend that may continue for the next five years. For this purpose any change in the electorate resulting from a change in the housing stock or boundary changes has been disregarded so as to identify only any occupation or registration trend within a consistent property base. This % change has then been reduced by 50% to moderate the effects of one-off factors e.g. increased registration for elections/referenda.
- The change in electorate resulting from changes in the housing stock or boundary changes has then been added back to give a provisional 2023 electorate figure, net of new development.
- Finally, an estimate of additional electors arising from new housing development has been added. This figure has been arrived at by identifying any additional dwellings that are expected to be built within the area, based on existing planning consents and projections contained in the East Herts District Plan, multiplied by an estimated average 'electors per dwelling' figure calculated from national ONS election statistics and the English Housing Survey.